

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a laser oscillator;

a first means for expanding a laser beam emitted from the laser oscillator in a first direction;

a second means for condensing the laser beam in a second direction that is orthogonal to the first direction; and

a third means for providing an object to be irradiated with the laser beam expanded in the first direction and condensed in the second direction with a laser beam irradiation surface and moving the laser beam irradiation surface in the second direction, relative to the laser beam,

wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a cylindrical shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,

wherein the cylindrical shape curvature is provided in a negative direction with respect to the direction at which the laser beam advances, [[and]]

wherein the second means is provided between the first means and the third means so that focus positions of the laser beam passed through the first means and the second means have the cylindrical shape curvature,

wherein the third means comprises first and second pins provided in the laser beam irradiation surface, and

wherein height of the first and second pins are different from each other.

5. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a laser oscillator;

a first means for expanding a laser beam emitted from the laser oscillator in a first direction;

a second means for condensing the laser beam in a second direction that is orthogonal to the first direction; and

a third means for providing an object to be irradiated with the laser beam expanded in the first direction and condensed in the second direction with a laser beam irradiation surface and moving the laser beam irradiation surface in the second direction, relative to the laser beam,

wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a concave shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,

wherein radius of the curvature with respect to a certain focal length of a condenser lens falls within a range of the following two equations:

$$y = 2539.3 \ln(x) - 21447;$$

$$y = 1666.7 \ln(x) - 13098,$$

where y (mm) is focal length of the condenser lens, x (mm) is the radius of the curvature,

wherein the concave shape curvature is provided in a negative direction with respect to the direction at which the laser beam advances, [[and]]

wherein the second means is provided between the first means and the third means so that focus positions of the laser beam passed through the first means and the second means have the concave shape curvature,

wherein the third means comprises first and second pins provided in the laser beam irradiation surface, and

wherein height of the first and second pins are different from each other.

6. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a laser oscillator;

a first means for expanding a laser beam emitted from the laser oscillator in a first direction;

a second means for condensing the laser beam in a second direction that is orthogonal to the first direction; and

a third means for providing an object to be irradiated with the laser beam expanded in the first direction and condensed in the second direction with a laser beam irradiation surface and moving the laser beam irradiation surface in the second direction, relative to the laser beam,

wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a concave shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,

~~wherein the surface has a side length on the order of 1 m,~~

wherein the concave shape curvature is provided in a negative direction with respect to the direction at which the laser beam advances, [[and]]

wherein the second means is provided between the first means and the third means so that focus positions of the laser beam passed through the first means and the second means have the concave shape curvature,

wherein the third means comprises first and second pins provided in the laser beam irradiation surface, and

wherein height of the first and second pins are different from each other.

7. (Original) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first means contains a cylindrical lens array or a cylindrical lens.

8. (Original) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the first means contains a cylindrical lens array or a cylindrical lens.

9. (Original) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first means contains a cylindrical lens array or a cylindrical lens.

10. (Original) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the second means contains a cylindrical lens array or a cylindrical lens.

11. (Original) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the second means contains a cylindrical lens array or a cylindrical lens.

12. (Original) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the second means contains a cylindrical lens array or a cylindrical lens.

13. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the laser oscillator is an excimer laser, a YAG laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ [[YA1O₃]] laser, or a glass laser.

14. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the laser oscillator is an excimer laser, a YAG laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ [[YA1O₃]] laser, or a glass laser.

15. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the laser oscillator is an excimer laser, a YAG laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ [[YA1O₃]] laser, or a glass laser.

16-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a side length on the order of 1 m.

38. (Previously Presented) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a side length on the order of 1 m.

39. (Previously Presented) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a side length on the order of 1 m.

40. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a laser oscillator capable of emitting a laser beam;

a beam expander;

a cylindrical lens; and

a stage,

wherein the beam expander expands the laser beam in a first direction,

wherein the cylindrical lens condenses the laser beam in a second direction that is orthogonal to the first direction,

~~wherein a surface of the stage has a cylindrical shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,~~

wherein the stage provides an object to be irradiated with the laser beam expanded in the first direction and condensed in the second direction with a laser beam irradiation surface,

wherein the stage is capable of moving the laser irradiation surface in the second direction relative to the laser beam,

wherein the laser irradiation surface has a cylindrical shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,

wherein the cylindrical shape curvature is provided in a negative direction with respect to the direction at which the laser beam advances, [[and]]

wherein the cylindrical lens is provided between the beam expander and the stage so that focus positions of the laser beam passed through the beam expander and the cylindrical lens have the cylindrical shape curvature,

wherein the stage comprises first and second pins provided in the laser beam irradiation surface, and

wherein height of the first and second pins are different from each other.

41. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a laser oscillator capable of emitting a laser beam;

a beam expander;

a cylindrical lens; and

a stage,

wherein the beam expander expands the laser beam in a first direction,

wherein the cylindrical lens condenses the laser beam in a second direction that is orthogonal to the first direction,

~~wherein a surface of the stage has a concave shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,~~

wherein the stage provides an object to be irradiated with the laser beam expanded in the first direction and condensed in the second direction with a laser beam irradiation surface,

wherein the stage is capable of moving the laser beam irradiation surface in the second direction relative to the laser beam,

wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a concave shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,

wherein the concave shape curvature is provided in a negative direction with respect to the direction at which the laser beam advances,

wherein the cylindrical lens is provided between the beam expander and the stage so that focus positions of the laser beam passed through the beam expander and the cylindrical lens have the concave shape curvature, [[and]]

wherein radius of the concave shape curvature with respect to a certain focal length of a condenser lens falls within a range of the following two equations:

$$y = 2539.3 \ln(x) - 21447;$$

$$y = 1666.7 \ln(x) - 13098,$$

where y (mm) is focal length of the condenser lens, x (mm) is the radius of the curvature,

wherein the stage comprises first and second pins provided in the laser beam irradiation surface, and

wherein height of the first and second pins are different from each other.

42. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a laser oscillator capable of emitting a laser beam;

a beam expander;

a cylindrical lens; and

a stage,

wherein the beam expander expands the laser beam in a first direction,

wherein the cylindrical lens condenses the laser beam in a second direction that is orthogonal to the first direction,

~~wherein a surface of the stage has a concave shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,~~

wherein the stage provides an object to be irradiated with the laser beam expanded in the first direction and condensed in the second direction with a laser beam irradiation surface,

wherein the stage is capable of moving the laser beam irradiation surface in the second direction relative to the laser beam,

wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a concave shape curvature in a direction parallel to the first direction,

wherein the concave shape curvature is provided in a negative direction with respect to the direction at which the laser beam advances, [[and]]

wherein the cylindrical lens is provided between the beam expander and the stage so that focus positions of the laser beam passed through the beam expander and the cylindrical lens have the concave shape curvature,

wherein the stage comprises first and second pins provided in the laser beam irradiation surface, and

wherein height of the first and second pins are different from each other.

43. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the beam expander contains a cylindrical lens array ~~or a cylindrical lens~~.

44. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the beam expander contains a cylindrical lens array ~~or a cylindrical lens~~.

45. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the beam expander contains a cylindrical lens array ~~or a cylindrical lens~~.

46. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the laser oscillator is an excimer laser, a YAG laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ ~~[[YAlO₃]]~~ laser, or a glass laser.

47. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the laser oscillator is an excimer laser, a YAG laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ [[YAlO₃]] laser, or a glass laser.

48. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the laser oscillator is an excimer laser, a YAG laser, a YVO₄ laser, a YLF laser, a YAlO₃ [[YAlO₃]] laser, or a glass laser.

49-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a side length on the order of 1 m.

53. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a side length on the order of 1 m.

54. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the laser beam irradiation surface has a side length on the order of 1 m.